



International Boundary and Water Commission United States Section

For immediate release
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UPDATE ON USIBWC FLOOD CONTROL OPERATIONS AT PRESIDIO, TEXAS

The U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) has been informed by Mexican officials that precipitation from Hurricane Norbert in the Conchos River basin in Mexico has been contained by Mexican reservoirs. As a result, no large flood control releases into the Rio Grande will occur. This means that Rio Grande flood conditions at Presidio, Texas-Ojinaga, Chihuahua are expected to remain stable or improve, barring additional precipitation.

Over the weekend of October 11-12, the USIBWC coordinated closely with the National Weather Service, State of Texas, and the Mexican Section of the Commission to monitor potential impacts of Hurricane Norbert out of concern that additional precipitation could have aggravated flooding in the region. The USIBWC is also closely monitoring forecasts for local rainfall in the Presidio area over the next several days, which could cause some increase in flood flows in the Rio Grande.

Mexican officials have advised that releases out of Luis Leon Dam, a Mexican reservoir on the Conchos River upstream of Presidio-Ojinaga, are currently 67 cubic meters per second (cms) (2400 cubic feet per second), the lowest releases since early September. Releases are not expected to increase unless precipitation forecasts change. If there is no additional significant precipitation, then Rio Grande flood conditions should continue to improve at Presidio-Ojinaga. Current river levels are well below the peak flow of 1500 cms (53,000 cubic feet per second) that was experienced at Presidio-Ojinaga on September 16, which overtopped the Mexican levee at Ojinaga and a portion of the U.S. levee downstream of the urban area of Presidio.

Although the water surface is expected to remain well below the top of the U.S. Rio Grande flood control levee, USIBWC crews continue working with structural problems such as levee seepage and sand boils. Personnel continue to monitor the levee 24 hours per day to respond to problems as they arise.

Area residents concerned about potential Rio Grande flooding should monitor National Weather Service forecasts and any announcements from local emergency managers.

For additional information:

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